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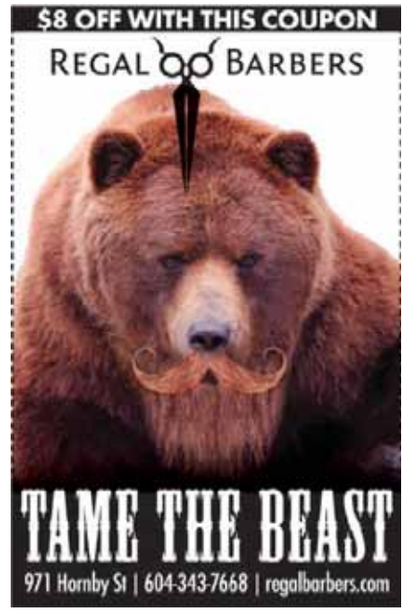

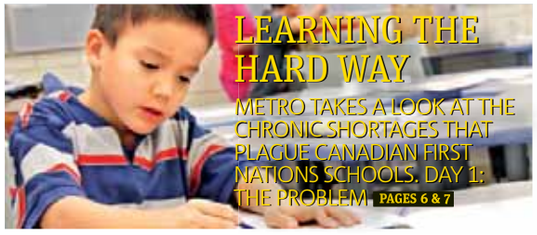

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

METRO TAKES A LOOK AT THE CHRONIC SHORTAGES THAT PLAGUE CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS. DAY 1: THE PROBLEM. PAGES 6 & 7

B.C.'s not prepared for the big one

No real progress has been made since late '90s to prepare for a catastrophic earthquake, says attorney general's audit PAGE 3

Province won't pick up tab for co-op housing

Federal subsidy contracts for low-income residents set to expire PAGE 4

Speaker busted for trip on taxpayer dime

2013. Linda Reid admits the public paid for her husband's sojourn in South Africa

Legislative Speaker Linda Reid, inset, tweeted this picture of her husband petting a giraffe during a taxpayer-funded trip to South Africa in 2013.
TWITTER; INSET: CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is furious after the Speaker of the legislature admitted to using public money for her husband's trip to South Africa.

Linda Reid told the Vancouver Sun on Tuesday that she expensed business-class flights, accommodations and other costs for her husband to accompany her on a work-related trip — costing thousands — last year and has since promised to pay back $5,500.

"It's really disappointing," said Jordan Bateman, B.C. director of the CTF. "The Speaker is supposed to have a higher sense of responsibility for the office and be an example for the other MLAs, not billing taxpayers so your husband can come along on safari. It's ridiculous."

Bateman was referring to a tweet Reid posted Aug. 30 with a picture of her husband petting a giraffe in South Africa.

"My husband making new friends," she tweeted.

Reid has apologized and said she won't do it again.

"I travelled in my capacity as Speaker," she said. "I attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference. That work is important. It's important work on behalf of democracy. We will continue to ensure we will deliver the best product we can on behalf of British Columbians. If this caused anybody any consternation, I sincerely apologize."

She added it was common practice for legislators to take along spouses when travelling.

In fact, she said the assistant deputy speaker, New Democrat Raj Chouhan, was on the same trip and took his wife along.

Another New Democrat is currently on unpaid leave over taxpayer-funded family trips.

NDP MLA Jenny Kwan last week promised to repay $35,000 to the Portland Hotel Society after two audits revealed she took two family trips paid for by non-profit housing provider, where her ex-husband was a director.

She claimed she didn't know at the time the bill had been picked up by PHS.

"Jenny Kwan has laid out the road map for what should happen here," said Bateman. "Cut the cheques and show us the receipts."

Reid, Liberal MLA for Richmond-East since 1991, was attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference from Aug. 28 to Sept. 6, 2013.

She's not the only politician to be burned by a taxpayer-funded trip to South Africa.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford resigned Sunday after mounting pressure over her $45,000 trip to attend Nelson Mandela's memorial in Johannesburg.

Unlike Redford, Reid said she won't be resigning.

Reid's spending came under scrutiny earlier this month, when media reports detailed tens of thousands of dollars in spending, from a new desk in the legislature to a $734 snack display for politicians.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Legal challenge

B.C. addicts in court fighting federal ban on prescription heroin

A group of chronic drug addicts are asking a Vancouver judge for an injunction against the federal government that would allow them access to prescription heroin until the court hears their legal challenge of the law.

Joseph Arvay, the lawyer representing five heroin addicts, told a judge the four men and one woman were part of a clinical trial that provided them with pharmaceutical-grade heroin until last year.

When they left the study, with the recommendation of their doctors, they applied for — and were granted — special access permits from Health Canada to receive the prescription drug diacetylmorphine. Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose responded by announcing immediate changes to prevent Health Canada from approving prescription heroin under the program.

"The health minister comes out in a press release and essentially saying, 'Over my dead body,'" Arvay told B.C. Supreme Court Judge Christopher Hinkson.

Heroin addiction is a chronic disease which, left untreated, can be fatal, he told the judge.

"We are dealing with the hardest of the hard to treat," Arvay said.

His clients all took part in clinical trials conducted by Providence Health Care.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A bus covered in building debris is seen on Feb. 22, 2011, in Christchurch, New Zealand. MARTIN HUNTER/GETTY IMAGES

B.C. not ready for major earthquake

If the province is rocking ... it may not know what to do, according to the auditor general

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The province is ill-prepared for a catastrophic earthquake, according to Auditor General Russ Jones.

In an audit released by Jones on Tuesday, the Auditor General found that Emergency Management B.C. (EMBC) — the organization tasked with preparing governments' response to disasters — and the provincial government have not made preparing for an earthquake a priority.

The EMBC is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and responds to approximately 6,000 incidents a year related to dangerous-goods spills, search and rescue, major floods, fires, landslides and avalanches.

The majority of staff time is spent on immediate emergencies and the lack of critical long-term resources (such as a logistics planner) and its limited funding constrain its ability to plan for a large-scale earthquake, the audit says.

EMBC's current operating budget for emergency activities sits around $6.2 million, about the same as in 2006 despite the fact B.C.'s population has increased by 10 per cent and its property value has doubled since then.

No significant progress been made to prepare for a catastrophic earthquake since the AG's office first identified gaps in 1997, Jones said.

"Successive government have decided to allocate scarce public resources to meet more immediate pressing demands, rather than to adequately prepare the province for a catastrophic earthquake that may or may not occur," said Jones in a statement. "EMBC staff is busy with daily emergencies such as floods and fires, so catastrophic earthquake planning is done as a side-of-desk activity."

The report makes nine recommendations, including one that says the government should develop long-term goals and set level of preparedness targets for EMBC to achieve in the next five, 10 and 15 years.

The Ministry of Justice said it will "be taking immediate action on all nine" of the AG's recommendations.

"It's a tough report," admitted Minister Suzanne Anton to media in Victoria. "What the Auditor General is missing, and what I'm going to be working on, is what's the big picture, what is the overall structure."

Her first attempt at addressing the AG's concerns didn't go smoothly.

Anton announced a consultation and public education campaign on earthquake preparedness on March 11 in advance of the audit's release.

But the plan was immediately mired in controversy over the appointment of former B.C. Solicitor General John Les as co-chair.

His $140,000 contract, and questions over qualifications, was seen as a patronage appointment, leading to Premier Christy Clark quickly putting an end to his involvement.

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The 'Pollinator Project.' Park board abuzz over sweet bumblebee strategy

The park board plans to create some buzz around the city's green spaces — literally.

Commissioner Niki Sharma wants staff to create a strategy to make Vancouver friendlier to bumblebees, honeybees, butterflies and other pollinators, according to a motion to be considered at next week's park board meeting.

Dubbed the "Pollinator Project," its goal is to make city parks and streets more hospitable habitats for the flying creatures as bee populations decline across North America.

"They're in trouble," Sharma said Tuesday. "They're such an important part of our ecosystem ... we're looking at anything we can do to support them in our city."

That could be anything from planting wildflowers, selecting different plants or mowing and grooming lawns less frequently so bees have meadows to roam through, Sharma said.

The project also aims to bring together different pollinator organizations, such as Hives for Humanity, to create a hive mentality to help the bees instead of working in silos on community projects.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Lower Mainland. New Westminster peddles four-lane toll bridge

New Westminster city councillors are lobbying other cities in Metro Vancouver for support for a tolled four-lane bridge to replace the aging Pattullo Bridge.

Coun. Chuck Puchmayr appeared at Port Coquitlam city council on Monday night standing firm on the city's position.

"There needs to be information that's not getting out there," he told Metro. "Our presentation can put out complexities of what's being proposed."

While New Westminster is asking TransLink to consider building a four-lane bridge, Surrey would like to see a non-tolled six-lane bridge built instead.

Port Coquitlam did not take a position on the issue.

"I can't recall a city to lobby on regional decisions before," said Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore, who stressed the importance of looking at the bridge as part of a regional network.

Moore told Puchmayr that being part of a regional system is "knowing people have to travel around the region."

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Bottom line

Pattullo Bridge replacement costs:

- New four-lane bridge: $850 million
- New six-lane bridge: $1.5 billion plus
- New four-lane Surrey-Coquitlam bridge with rehabilitated three-lane Pattullo: $1.75 billion

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

Possible homicide

Woman dies in Burnaby complex

A woman's death in a Burnaby complex Monday night has led to a potential homicide investigation. Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) Sgt. Bari Emam said Burnaby RCMP were called to a report of an injured woman inside a residence at the 5100 block of Irvine Street near Kingsway. The woman later died and IHIT was called.

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Tattoo parlour

Video captures violent assault

Surveillance cameras captured a customer violently attacking a woman working at a downtown tattoo parlour on Monday.

The man got into a disagreement with the owner of Looks Wow Face & Body Art in the Tinseltown mall around 1 p.m., Sgt. Randy Fincham said.

Byron Thomas Hobbs, 31, has been charged.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Brad White and his two daughters, Marley and Piper, stand next to the mural at Britannia Secondary School in East Vancouver. The family has lived inside Grandview Housing Co-op for seven years and are worried about their community's future. SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

B.C. won't pay for Fed co-op housing shortfall

Expiring subsidy contracts. Pick up $10M bill or face the fallout: CHF BC

SAM SMITH
vancouver@metronews.ca

The province is refusing to pick up the bill once federal subsidy contracts for low-income residents living in housing co-ops end, but the Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia (CHF BC) say it's going to be the provincial government's responsibility.

Minister for Housing Rich Coleman was not available for comment, but a spokesperson from the ministry said co-ops have always been funded by the federal government and any discussions about continued funding should go through them.

"The provincial government is not considering stepping in should the federal government decide to change their funding model," the ministry said in an emailed statement.

However, the province has had "productive discussions" with co-ops in the past year about accessing existing funding programs, according to the ministry, and BC Housing is currently looking at ways the system could absorb those soon to be in need.

Executive director of CHF BC Thom Armstrong confirmed those meetings have taken place, but doesn't think it should be the only avenue the government is looking at.

"It isn't our preferred option for meeting the needs of low-income co-op members going forward," he said. "But we are hopeful that we can reach an agreement that works for every low-income co-op member currently in receipt of federal assistance. Discussions have been positive and BC Housing staff are aware of the issue and sensitive to the needs of affected co-op members."

As the federal subsidy contracts expire from 2014 to 2021, Armstrong expects the province to pick up the roughly $10-million-a-year bill that will come with it or be faced with the price of the fallout.

Grandview Co-op

"We are committed as a co-op to still be able to provide (a) subsidy."

Erin Kastner, a co-op member for seven years

It's a small price to pay, according to Erin Kastner, a co-op member for seven years at the Grandview Housing Co-operative in Vancouver.

"They'd lose their community really" if no rent-assistance were to come through for their members in need, Kastner said. "And for some people they consider the co-op family. Some people still live here who moved in in 1979."

The Grandview Co-op houses 19 families, one-third of which require rent-subsidy, and the wait-list to get into the co-op stretches nearly five years.

Their federal subsidy contract ends in November and Kastner is hoping for a resolution before then.

If not, they'll do everything they can to keep their neighbours' roofs over their heads.

Jeaden Paquette's birthday wish was to have a lot of people attend his party, which takes place Saturday at the Prince George Roll-A-Dome. FACEBOOK

The coolest kid in Prince George

An 11-year-old Prince George boy with autism will spend his birthday with about 500 people this weekend after his mom made a mass appeal for guests on Facebook.

Jolene Paquette created a Facebook event inviting the public to the party, which takes place on Saturday, after hearing her son Jeaden's wish of having "a lot of people" attend.

"He usually doesn't have good turnouts," she said. "We're lucky if we had two to three friends come and we've sent invitations to the whole class."

Paquette assumes the small numbers come from spring break and Jeaden's struggle to accept friendships.

"It's hard to explain to him," she said.

But since he was diagnosed with autism a year ago — shortly before his 11th birthday — she said his social behaviour has been easier to understand.

She said Jeaden was nervous at first, but he's now looking forward to the event.

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Dozens missing, deaths keep on climbing in Wash. mudslide

The search. Some crews had to pull back on Monday because of concern over potential flash floods or another landslide

Washington state officials say searchers found 10 more bodies in the debris of a massive landslide, raising the number of people who died in the disaster to 24.

Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots announced the fatalities Tuesday evening after residents from the nearby logging town of Darrington spent the day helping rescue crews scour the muck for any sign of survivors.

The grim discoveries came three days after the collapse of a rain-soaked hillside about 55 miles north of Seattle.

Searchers had warned they were likely to find more bodies in the debris field, which covered a neighbourhood of 49 structures. Authorities believe at least 25 were full-time residences.

Dozens of people remain unaccounted for. Authorities are working off a list of 176 potentially missing people, though many of those names likely are duplicates and they think that number will decrease.

From the beginning, rescue crews on the ground have faced dangerous and unpredictable conditions as they navigated quicksand-like mud that was 15 feet deep in some places. Some who went in got caught up to their armpits in the thick, sticky sludge.

A scientist who documented the landslide conditions on the hillside that buckled had warned in a 1999 report filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the "potential for a large catastrophic failure," the Seattle Times reported late Monday.

That report was written by geomorphologist Daniel J. Miller and his wife, Lynne Rodgers Miller. "We've known it would happen at some point," Daniel Miller told the newspaper.

Snohomish County executive John Lovick and public works director Steve Thomsen said Monday night they were not aware of the 1999 report. "A slide of this magnitude is very difficult to predict," Thomsen told the Times. "There was no indication, no indication at all."

Snohomish County emergency management director John Pennington said officials would examine the report, but he said local authorities were vigilant about warning of potential landslide dangers. A less severe slide struck the area in 2006.

"We've done everything we could to protect them. We've mitigated the landslide from 2006," Pennington said at a morning news conference. "We're going to get to the bottom of this."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flowers are left on debris next to a demolished home where a woman's body was found following a deadly mudslide, Tuesday, in Arlington, Wash.

ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Ocean search

China demands satellite data on missing plane

China demanded Tuesday that Malaysia turn over the satellite data used to conclude that a Malaysia Airlines jetliner had crashed in the southern Indian Ocean, killing all 239 on board. Officials sharply narrowed the search area as a result of that assessment, but the zone remains as large as Texas and Oklahoma combined. Australia said improved weather would allow the hunt for the plane to resume Wednesday after gale-force winds and heavy rain forced a daylong delay. Searchers face a daunting task of combing a vast expanse of choppy seas for suspected remnants of the aircraft sighted earlier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine

Defence chief resigns as troops withdraw from Crimea

Ukrainian soldiers piled onto buses and began their journey to Ukrainian territory on Tuesday, as former comrades saluted them from outside a base overrun by Russian forces.

Their departure came as Ukraine's defence minister stepped down Tuesday after facing harsh criticism for the often-hesitant reaction to Russia's annexation of Crimea, which was formalized following a hastily organized referendum this month.

So far, 131 marines have left Crimea, the defence ministry said.

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Students holding out hope

MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

Despite inadequate funding, limited access to technology and outdated learning materials, some students attending school on First Nations reserves are hopeful about their future.

One of them is Grade 9 student Payton Daniels. Sitting in the library of the Sturgeon Lake Central School on Saskatchewan's Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the 15-year-old fiddles with her hands as she talks about her future goals.

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian," she says. "I think I can do that with the education here."

With Prince Albert only about 40 minutes away, a number of students have been leaving Sturgeon Lake for opportunities in the city. But that option doesn't interest her.

"Here, I can actually learn about ... my native culture," Daniels says. "Our generation, we lost a lot of our culture.... I really want to get my culture back, and I've started beading, and I'm trying to learn Cree again."

If she graduates, she'll be among the minority of on-reserve First Nations students.

A 2011 report from Canada's auditor general found the education gap between First Nations and the rest of the population is growing even wider — a trend the federal government is trying to reverse.

The almost $2 billion in promised funding is welcome news, but for many young people, like Grade 12 student Patrick Ermine, it will come too late.

"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes," says Ermine, 18, who aspires to be a tattoo artist.

While Ermine and Daniels are hopeful about their future, Joanne Berg, a resource teacher at the school, remains worried that a lack of access to modern technology and resources will hurt students in the long run.

"When they choose to go off to university, and their profs are not looking at where they come from, they expect everybody to be able to go and research essays, and find their textbooks," she says.

"They just don't have that ability. We find the kids that are leaving and going off to university are coming back home because they don't know how to access those resources."

"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes."

Patrick Ermine, 18, at Sturgeon Lake Central School

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian. I think I can do that with the education here."

Payton Daniels, 15, at Sturgeon Lake Central School

Learning with

Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly $2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.

A Grade 12 English class at Sturgeon Lake Central School reads Lord of the Flies. Administrators at many on-reserve schools must make do without the funds to hire

JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

For administrators at on-reserve schools, every day is a juggling act.

"It's a constant struggle finding enough money for everything," says Pauline McKay, director and principal of the Sturgeon Lake Central School, which serves the Sturgeon Lake First Nation about 55 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert, Sask.

But many are optimistic that the years ahead will be different.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is promising $1.9 billion over seven years in the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. The funding is set to kick in next year.

"We have one phys-ed teacher for all of our 500 kids," says McKay, providing an example of the chronic shortages. "There's always a lack of staff."

In most of the country, First Nations education is funded through the federal government, whereas mainstream public schools receive funding through the province.

McKay said that Sturgeon Lake gets $6,500 per student per year. By comparison, the provincial government provided more than $10,000 per student to public and Catholic divisions in the North Battleford, Sask., area, and around $17,000 to the French board, according to a 2013 study from educational consultant R. J. Kowalchuk.

That discrepancy results in fewer course offerings. McKay envies how provincial schools are able to enjoy such luxuries as drama and music classes.

"For extras, we have phys-ed and we've got Cree," McKay says. "That's it."

All this hasn't stopped McKay and others at the school from trying to produce graduates out of children deprived of resources. McKay designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month.

At James Smith Cree Nation, roughly 65 kilometres from Prince Albert, the situation is even worse.

Marlene Nicholls, principal of Bernard Constant Community School, says her administration ends up with just $4,340 per student. Staff can't even afford to call in sick.

"This year we weren't able to hire substitute teachers," she says.

During the five-plus years Nicholls has been with the school, she hasn't once been able to purchase a new vehicle. Luckily, she has a retention worker who can double as a mechanic.

"In the public school system, you have to have (your vehicles) inspected," she says. "We try our best to adhere to those rules and policies, but there's no money for that."

What Nicholls does have is a retention worker and a community liaison to keep tabs on troubled students.

"If a teacher says, 'This kid is missing,' then they go and find out what's happening," she says. "They also have some training in addictions."

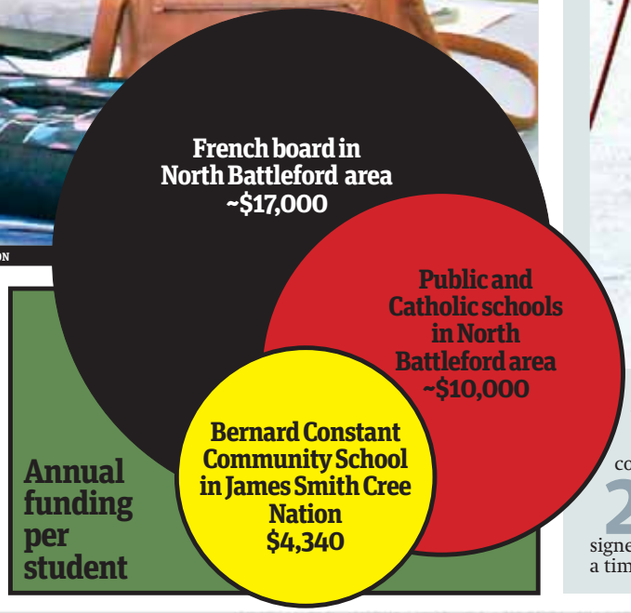
less

enough teachers. JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Each of these social workers earns only $19,000 a year.

The new Conservative initiative for First Nations education is expected to start injecting increased funding in 2015. So the question for those on the ground is not only whether it will be enough, but also whether it will be soon enough.

"I don't think people really believe what it's like in the reserve," McKay says.


Annual funding per student
French board in North Battleford area ~$17,000
Public and Catholic schools in North Battleford area ~$10,000
Bernard Constant Community School in James Smith Cree Nation $4,340

CATCHING DREAMS

Day 1: the Problem

Day 2: the Plan

Day 3: the Promise

On the web

1 Gallery. Outdated and in disrepair

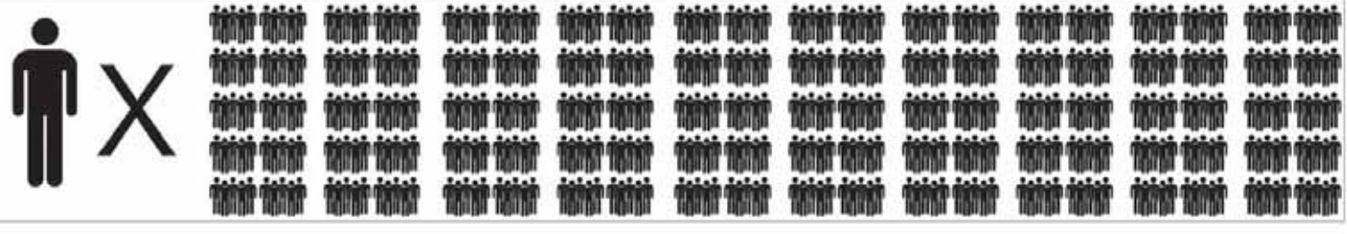
Visit metronews.ca to take a closer look at some of the conditions that exist in the First Nations schools of Saskatchewan.

2 Timetable. The basics — just the basics

Principal Pauline McKay of the Sturgeon Lake Central School designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month. Visit metronews.ca to see the meagre timetable.

Hope he's good with names ...

Sturgeon Lake Central has just one phys-ed teacher for its 500 students.



Privacy. Device with data on 583,000 student loans left unsecured: Report

A portable hard drive containing personal information on more than half a million people who took out student loans was left unsecured for extended periods and lacked password protection and encryption, says the federal privacy czar.

Employees handling the device were not aware of the sensitivity of the information it contained, concludes the report from interim privacy commissioner Chantal Bernier.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada acknowledged last year the drive held data on 583,000 Canada Student Loans Program borrowers from 2000 to 2006.

The missing files included student names, social insurance numbers, dates of birth, contact information and loan balances, as well as the personal contact information of 250 department employees.

Bernier's report, tabled in Parliament, says a gap between policies and practices at the department — now known as Employment and Social Development Canada — led to weaknesses in information management, physical security controls and employee awareness.

The commissioner found that department employees violated sections of the federal Privacy Act related to the use, disposal and disclosure of personal information.

Information security cannot be assured by having policies on paper — they must be put into practice every day, Bernier said.

The department has begun implementing her recommendations, she added. "We hope this investigation will prompt other federal departments and private-sector organizations to review their own privacy policies and practices."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ken Cudmore, site and wildlife manager of Winnipeg's FortWhyte Alive centre, says a group of 200 or so Canada geese that landed there last week have since headed back south because of the cold weather. CONTRIBUTED

Birds of a feather say no to Winnipeg's weather

No spring ahead, fall back! About 200 geese that made their annual return north decided it was too cold and flew back the way they came

SHANE GIBSON
Metro in Winnipeg

It's so cold in Winnipeg this spring even the geese are turning their feathers to our weather.

Ken Cudmore, of the FortWhyte Alive park and recreation facility, told Metro Tuesday a group of 200 or so Canada geese that had made their annual return to the centre last week took to the air and headed back the way they came just days after landing.

"I've been doing this for 30 years and I don't remember ever seeing anything like it," said Cudmore, FortWhyte's site and wildlife manager. "I couldn't imagine they went north, so I'm assuming they went back south."

Cudmore said geese normally follow the disappearing snowline on their annual migration north, and he thinks the few nice days we saw last week and a strong south wind might have tricked the birds into thinking it was nicer up this way than it turned out to be once they got here.

With temperatures dropping 10 and sometimes even closer to 20 degrees below the temperatures we can normally expect for this time of year, Cudmore said he doesn't blame the iconic birds one bit.

"Not at all," he laughed. "I'm thinking of joining them."

Quebec

Lac-Mégantic probe officially wrapped up

Quebec provincial police are confirming they have completed their investigation into the deadly train disaster in Lac-Mégantic.

The crash and explosion killed 47 and destroyed a large swath of the downtown area last summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political pages

Justin Trudeau publishing an autobiography

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has announced he will publish a personal memoir.

The memoir is set to be released this fall, and proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study

Most lost phones returned — after some snooping

The odds of having a lost cellphone returned are just a little better than 50/50, while the chances of it being probed by its finder are close to 100 per cent, according to results of an experiment. Security software company Symantec dropped phones in six Canadian cities to see how much poking around people would do — 93 per cent were accessed in some way by people who found them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Northwest Passage dreams are dead for now

You're enjoying your day ... Everything's going your way when along comes Lisa Raitt to tell you there'll be no Arctic shortcut soon

Lisa Raitt THE CANADIAN PRESS

All the enthusiastic talk about shipping through the Arctic will remain mostly just that — talk — for the foreseeable future, says Transport Minister Lisa Raitt.

During an appearance Tuesday in Washington, Raitt played down expectations that the Northwest Passage would become a viable shipping route any time soon — expectations stoked by the prospect of a changing climate opening up the famed route pursued by explorers centuries ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some ebookworms to get credits

Maarten Heilbron of Toronto reads an ebook on his iPad while his wife, Kim, reads on a Kobo Touch. Buyers of ebooks will get account credits this week from five publishers who reached settlements after states alleged they colluded to raise prices, New York's attorney general said Tuesday.

TEXT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

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Natural gas: $4.41 US (+$0.12)
Dow Jones: 16,367.88 (+91.19)

Low-cost subsidiary

Air Canada grows Rouge to cut costs

Air Canada is trying to further cut costs by expanding its low-cost subsidiary Rouge in Western Canada and using it to replace its regular service on some U.S. routes from Vancouver and Calgary.

Air Canada said Tuesday that Rouge will begin daily flights at the end of April to Las Vegas from Calgary and Vancouver.

It will be followed with service to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Anchorage, Alaska, a key port for cruise ships. Seasonal service from Vancouver and Calgary to Phoenix will begin next December. The airline is using Rouge to lower costs by filling planes with more passengers and paying workers less than on the main network. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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READING, WRITING AND ARRR

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Math problem!

Little Johnny has 37 candies and wants to divide them evenly among his five buddies, leaving an equal number for himself. How many candies does each of the boys get?

Answer: Little Johnny hasn't the faintest idea.

He and his friends take the "discovery" method of mathematics at school, where they don't learn the answer but are taught techniques for getting to the answer some day.

So they don't know much about division or fractions. Nor, for that matter, multiplication tables, adding and subtracting from columns of numbers or any of that other boring stuff.

Go figure.

If you don't learn the fundamentals of math, you're in over your head the moment you encounter algebra. And if you don't master algebra, the door is barred to careers in engineering, science, medicine, IT, etc.

Math problem indeed!

I suppose you could get an English degree, but you'd have to learn how to spell. Although the way things are going these days, that may not be necessary.

This is not just idle speculation from the back-to-basics crowd. You know: those flinty fundamentalists who walked 10 kilometres to school uphill both ways in a snowstorm and liked it. Canadian math students have dropped out of the top 10 in international math scores. We're number 13!

And in the latest round of tests, only 16 per cent of Canadian students scored at "high achieving levels," compared to 30 per cent of Asian students.

That sound you hear? That's Canada's future going into the ditch on the road to progress.

Things are so bad even parents are starting to notice. The province of Alberta has drawn back from the "discovery" method after receiving a petition from more than 11,700 people who want their kids to be able to count. And Manitoba has reintroduced math drills back into the classroom, while trying to wean kids from kindergarten to Grade 3 off calculators. Ontario is sticking to the discovery course. Why fix it if it doesn't work in the first place?

Right now, you're probably going: "Who needs math?" Well, you do. Every day: at work, on the family finances, trying to convert U.S. gas prices to Canadian litres and dollars (which require advanced calculus), figuring out what to buy at the hardware store or how much to tip the waiter (although many restaurants are pleased to do the calculation for you).

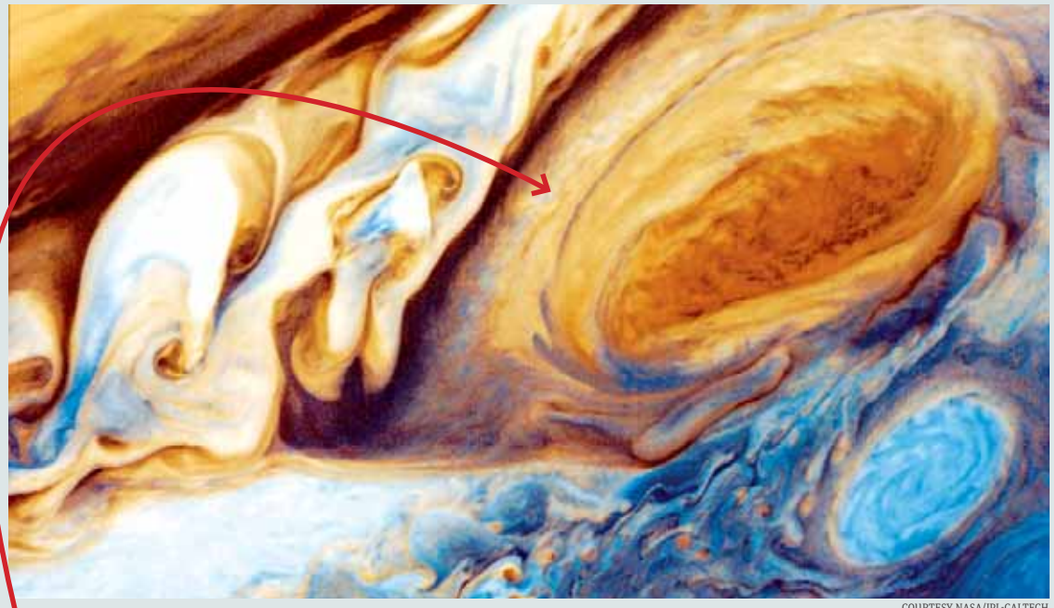
You're at the mercy of the bad old world unless you know how to figure, and for that you need multiplication tables or long division. And unless you do something and soon, your kids will suck at math even worse than you do.

Just think, if little Johnny knows how to divide, he'll successfully divvy up the candies into lots of six with one left over. And he gets to keep that one.

His friends can't count, so they'll never "discover" what he's done.

ZOOM

Jupiter paints a pretty picture



COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Artistic photo of Great Red Spot

It appears to be a canvas painted with Vincent van Gogh's colourful swirls in mind — but this is in fact a photo of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, captured by NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft. The Great Red Spot, the most conspicuous feature of Jupiter's cloud surface, is an atmospheric storm that has been raging in the planet's Southern Hemisphere for at least 400 years.

In 1979, Voyager zoomed toward Jupiter, capturing hundreds of images during its approach. The observations revealed many features of the planet's surface that are still being explored today. This particular view was only recently assembled from three black and white negatives by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. METRO

Storm's mystery

- **Size.** 20,000 kilometres long and 12,000 kilometres wide, 3.5 times the size of Earth.
- **Mystery.** Scientists remain baffled why the storm does not dissipate. Their best explanation is the storm gains energy by swallowing smaller vortices in Jupiter's jet streams.

A view of planet Jupiter.
COURTESY NASA

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

CONTRIBUTED

The latest in a series of Internet memes-to-book crazes is dog shaming: pictures of downtrodden dogs posing with notes outlining what they ate, chewed or pooped on. However, like most Internet memes, dog shaming has spawned a series of spinoffs — even baby shaming.

DogShaming.com:
The original site is still one of the best. You can also follow Pascale Lemire on Twitter @dogshaming.

Cat-Shaming:
Not content to let dogs have even a slice of online infamy, the Internet's reigning animal was one of the first to jump on the shaming bandwagon. Tumblr is rife with cat-shaming pics, many of which are collected at cat-shaming.tumblr.com.

Horse-Shaming.com:
For the irrepressible equine in your life.

Pinterest:
No matter what your preferred genre of shaming is, Pinterest has you covered. The photo-sharing site has plenty of shaming content, but is a particular hotbed of baby shaming.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: School boards are teaching responsible tweeting. What lesson would you teach kids who use social media?

@andiwrongwolf: I would teach them that their tweets along with any worldly doings are ultimately meaningless due to their unshakeable mortality

@sassypants81: Never use your real name. - Not Alana Beck

@EvanPetrie17: Don't hide behind anonymity. It's cowardly.

@Canucklehead_ca: RULE #1: Do as I say, not as I do.

@ljorche: Tweet as if your Grandparents will be reading it.

@artsyTrish: Ignore the trolls. Do not engage in argument just because you are not face to face. Respect others.

@HanahBissell: everything is public and can never be deleted. Even if its "private" or "removed" Bad tweets at 16 can haunt you.

@reachstacey: they do not understand how swearing and vulgarity will come back to haunt them by employers-they don't care

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Crowe blockbuster latest in a flood of Noah movies

Story ark. Bible tale formerly featured in Disney films and doc

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Russell Crowe stars in Noah, directed by Darren Aronofsky. CONTRIBUTED

According to Genesis, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them."

Noah, a righteous man, was commanded to build an ark and stock it with "two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive."

For 40 days and 40 nights Noah, his family and precious cargo withstood a flood so severe it submerged the tops of mountains until "every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out."

Once the flooding stopped and the Earth dried, God commanded Noah to come out of the ark and release the animals, "so they can multiply on the Earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

The story of Noah's ark and the flood is one of mankind's most famous tales and Hollywood has retold it a number of times.

This weekend Russell Crowe plays the title role in Noah, co-starring Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Hopkins and Emma Watson. Director Darren Aronofsky says he has been obsessed with the story since he was 13, calling it "the first apocalypse story." Nonetheless, he has added his own spin to the tale.

"When we first started working on the project, we were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards," he told Rolling Stone. "The first thing I said to Russell Crowe was, 'I'll never shoot you on a houseboat with two giraffes standing behind you.'"

More traditional are two Disney short films. Father Noah's Ark is a 1933 "Silly Symphony" for children that tells the narrative in song. Lively animation shows how the animals may have helped build the ship and why skunks almost didn't make it on board.

An untraditional Noah

"We were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards."
Darren Aronofsky, director of Noah

In 1959 Disney released the twenty-minute Noah's Ark, their first stop-motion animated film. A jazzy score accompanies equally jazzy animation as pencils, pipe cleaners and other household items are inventively used to create the animals.

Shooting the flood scene in the 1928 version of Noah's Ark endangered the life of a future Hollywood icon. John Wayne was a swimmer in the famous scene, and emerged unhurt, but other weren't so lucky. Three extras drowned and a dozen others suffered broken limbs.

Finally, a 1977 documentary claims to shed some light on the real story. In Search of Noah's Ark is an investigation into the speculation that Turkey's Mt. Ararat in is the landing place of Noah's Ark. "This may be the most incredible film you will ever see," says narrator Brad Crandall, "but the facts that will be presented are true."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow GETTY IMAGES

After 11 years, Gwyneth and Chris call it quits

It appears things have gone cold in the Paltrow-Martin household. After months of speculation, Gwyneth Paltrow confirmed on her website, Goop, that she and Coldplay singer Chris Martin are calling it quits.

"It is with hearts full of sadness that we have decided to separate," she writes. "We have been working hard for well over a year, some of it together, some of it separated, to see what might have been possible between us, and we have come to the conclusion that while we love each other very much we will remain separate."

Paltrow and Martin married 11 years ago and have two children, Apple, 9, and Moses, 7. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

The Word

Nick Cannon appeared on Instagram in gleeful whiteface to promote his upcoming album, White People Party Music. INSTAGRAM

Nick Cannon dons whiteface

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

White people, let's agree to be mature about this one.

Yes, that's Nick Cannon up there. Yes, he's donned what might be termed "whiteface." Yes, he adorned the Instagram pic with the caption, "It's official… I'm White!!! #WHITEPEOPLE-PARTYMUSIC #Wppm in stores April 1st!!!!!!Dude Go Get It!!!Join The Party!!!! #GoodCredit #DogKissing #BeerPong #FarmersMarkets #FistPumping #CreamCheeseEating #RacialDraft "Bro I got drafted!!"

So what led Mr. Mariah Carey to dress up as a ginger bro, looking like he's having the time of his life? He's promoting his upcoming album, White People Party Music. However, some of the Internet is writhing under the sting of what it perceives as Cannon's brutal racism.

I may be in the minority on this one, but I think it's fine. Blackface is offensive because minstrel shows were part of the systematic oppression of African-Americans for hundreds of years. White people have never been systematically oppressed by black people. No, not even two days ago, when Nick Cannon dressed up as your cousin Colin.

Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

Swift gets restraining order against stalker

A judge has granted Taylor Swift a three-year restraining order against a man who has threatened the singer's family.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted Swift a protective order from Timothy Sweet, who has expressed his belief that he is married to the Grammy winner.

Swift was granted a temporary restraining order against Sweet on March 3. Court filings state Sweet has sent threatening messages online and went to Swift's Beverly Hills home in February. The order also covers Swift's parents.

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Machu Picchu three ways

A trip to the ancient citadel in Peru's Cusco region, 2,430 metres above sea level, tops many bucket lists. The beauty of the 15th-century site becomes even more awe-inspiring when you take in the surrounding Andean peaks and the Vilcanota-Urubamba River. Whether you're a thrill-seeker, an eco aficionado or a connoisseur, there's something for everyone on the trail to the icon of Inca civilization.

MORGAN DUNLOP
life@metronews.ca

Loki Hostel's action-packed tours are a great way to bond with other fun-loving travellers. MORGAN DUNLOP/FOR METRO

For the thrill-seeker

Party every night with travellers from around the world at the Loki Hostel in Cusco city (beds from $8). Named after the Scandinavian god of mischief, this former Spanish colonial home fell into disrepair before four friends set out to turn it into the go-to social spot for fun-loving travellers looking to bond over copious amounts of alcohol. After sharing a row of fiery blood bombs — a shot of vodka mixed with grenadine, lit on fire and plunged into a half-glass of Red Bull — you may decide to head on a trek to Machu Picchu together. The hostel's most action-packed tour leaves you at Machu Picchu after four days of hiking, white- water rafting, mountain biking and zip- lining. Make sure to hike the higher Huayna Picchu for a vertical climb that leads to a stunning view of the site. Before you leave Cusco, dine like a local at the San Pedro market. Expect to be pleasantly ignored and served authentic, inexpensive food, like barbecued guinea pig and alpaca. Try not to be too hungover when you pass the pungent entrails aisle. Visit lokihostel.com/cusco; also see the Loki Travel section of the site for tour information.

For the eco aficionado

Warm your feet by a crackling fire in your Andean-village inspired whitewashed casita at the Inka Terra Machu Picchu hotel (rooms from about $440). A 30-minute bus ride from Machu Picchu, this property lies in the Andean cloud forest — a lush ecosystem at the intersection of the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin. Towering mountains on either side provide fresh drinking water and fill the hotel's pool and hot tubs. The grounds are home to fruit and vegetable gardens, a tea plantation and 372 orchid species, as well as a diverse hummingbird population and several rescued Andean spectacled bears the hotel hopes to reintroduce to the wild. Take a day trip to Awana Kancha to see the life cycle of the garments you see at local markets. Feed llamas and alpacas while watching as women from local communities spin their fibres, dye the wool with various herbs, barks and minerals and weave them into intricate vibrant designs. Visit inkaterra.com and awanakancha.com/en.

Soak in the luxury at Palacio Nazarenas. PALACIO NAZARENAS

For the connoisseur

Sip a Pisco Sour prepared by your butler as you adapt to the altitude in Cusco's luxury hotel, Palacio Nazarenas (rooms from about $610). Oxygen-enriched rooms and aromatherapy pillows, stuffed with peppermint, coca leaves, sage and flower petals, help ease the transition to 3,400 metres, about 1,000 metres higher than Machu Picchu. A five-minute walk from the main square, this property features modern comforts with historic charm. Board the Belmond Hiram Bingham train (return trip from about $885), named after the archaeologist credited with introducing the West to Machu Picchu. Sip complimentary mimosas as you travel through the ever-changing scenery from Cusco city to Machu Picchu. Arrive at Machu Picchu rested and refreshed for a hike with one of the train's knowledgeable guides. Don't leave Peru without the Inca royalty treasure vicuña. Considered one of the softest, lightest and warmest animal fibres in the world, Kuna's vicuña shawl is sheared only from protected wild live animals ($2,250 US). Visit palacionazarenas.com; belmond.com; and kuna.com.pe/en/natural_fibers/vicuna.

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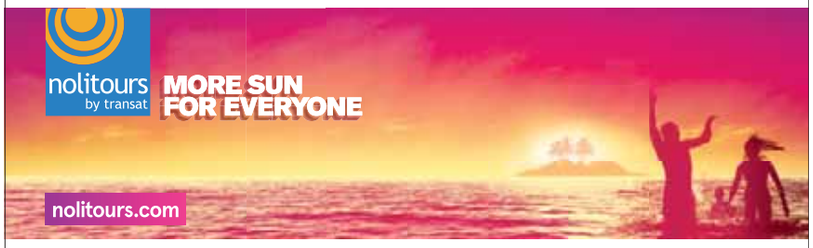

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Almost like flying. Newfoundland zip features ocean views, speeds up to 80 km

A man tries the North Atlantic Zip Line tour at Petty Harbour, N.L., just outside St. John.
NORTH ATLANTIC ZIP LINES INC. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rob Carter has a ready answer for anyone who thinks they might like to soar across a suspended cable at speeds of up to 80 km/h but may be a bit leery.

"We had an 86-year-old lady up here," says the founder of North Atlantic Zip Lines as he gazes over gorgeous Petty Harbour, N.L., from the top of a wooden connector platform.

"Truly inspirational. She did the whole course. Our youngest age is eight years old."

Carter said the sensation of breezing along in a harness, double-hooked to the cable, is about as close to flying as you can get. His 10-line course is billed as the largest in Canada with lengths ranging from 90 to 750 metres, strung across heights of up to 75 metres.

"Typically we find it's the fear of the unknown," Carter said of the most concerns of first-time zip liners.

"It's not the heights. They're not sure what to expect, but once they get up here and they go across the first line, they're totally comfortable and they're off to the races."

Its unique setting, featuring spectacular ocean views from the eastern edge of the continent, has drawn visitors from across Canada and as far away as New Zealand and Alaska, Carter said.

"It's the only place in North America where you can actually zip and see icebergs and whales."

Spring and summer are the best times for that, and guests may also glimpse moose, coyotes, rabbits and eagles.

The entire tour usually takes about two-and-a-half hours, depending on the size of the group. Reservations can be made at zipthenorthatlantic.com and are strongly recommended in the busiest summer season.

It's also worth taking some time before or after zip lining to explore scenic Petty Harbour.

Located about 20 minutes south of downtown St. John's, it's one of the most photogenic seaside towns in the province.

Its bright homes, soaring cliffs and fishing vessels have been the backdrop for several movies and television shoots including Orca and Republic of Doyle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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It's not all about Napa: Four more great Golden State destinations for wine lovers

California dreamin'.

With so much to chose from, you can drink to your heart's content

JIM BYERS
jimbyerstravel.com
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Don't get me wrong. I love California's Napa Valley. I was there last fall and had a great time at Mumm with sparkling wine on the patio. I also did a great tour and had wonderful wine at Rutherford Hill. But Napa's kind of like the New York City of California wine regions. It gets a lot of attention that otherwise might be showered on slightly lesser known regions. So here's one very frequent California visitor's guide to four other great wine areas of the Golden State.

San Francisco East Bay

Fans of big California chardonnays should make a pilgrimage to the historic Wente Vineyards in Livermore, a former cowboy town that's now very chic and classy. It's said that more than 80 per cent of all California Chardonnay grapes are clones of Wente vines; how's that for a family tree? In addition, Wente and nearby Concannon are two of the oldest wineries in the state, both dating back to 1883.

Wente, in fact, is the oldest continuously run family-owned winery in the States. Wente Chardonnay remains excellent and is often for sale in Canada.

Concannon introduced Petite Sirah to the U.S. in the 1960s and still makes a bold, spicy version.

There are more than 50 wineries in the Livermore-Pleasanton Tri-Valley area, and they're mostly gorgeous. Not only that, they're not overcrowded and not generally expensive for tasting.

Santa Barbara

This region was made famous (or, rather, more famous) in the great wine movie Sideways. The film pushed southern California's dreamy, fruity Pinot Noir grapes to the forefront, and also pushed Merlot to the back of the shelves for the longest time.

You can taste excellent wines in downtown Santa Barbara, one of California's best beach cities. Try Municipal Winemakers for an inexpensive, fun experience in what looks like an industrial office.

Jaffur Wine Cellars makes lovely Rhone varietals. The nearby Santa Ynez Valley makes wonderful reds and whites alike, and the town of Los Olivos is a western-looking classic. Be sure to have a steak dinner at the Hitching Post II in Buellton, featured in Sideways.

Paso Robles

This is an area quickly climbing to the top of the charts with wine experts. They grow rich, opulent Syrahs that are less fruity than the Shiraz style popular in Australia but not as dry and leathery as those of southern France.

The town of Paso Robles is quite pretty, with small cafes and a fine public square.

Try Opolo Vineyards, high in the hills outside of town, for a classic taste of what this area produces. It's also a tremendous drive through dry hills and pretty canyons.

Sonoma

Okay, this is really a sister valley to Napa, just a few miles away. But it's got a different vibe. The town of Sonoma itself is oh-so-pretty with its giant square and Spanish mission, and the wineries tend to be lower-key and less crowded than those in Napa.

Matanzas Creek has spectacular lavender fields and awesome views, as well as great wines. Chateau St. Jean is a beautiful spot that looks like something out of France but can get busy. Kunde Family Estate has lovely staff and beautiful fountains and gardens.

Best of both worlds

There are more than 50 wineries in the Livermore-Pleasanton Tri-Valley area, and they're mostly gorgeous. Not only that, they're not overcrowded and not generally expensive for tasting.

Las Positas Vineyards is one of 50-plus wineries in the Tri-Valley area, just a short drive from San Francisco. JIM BYERS/FOR METRO

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New York City. Architecture poses with fashion in Bill Cunningham exhibition

Bill Cunningham is a familiar presence on the social and fashion pages of The New York Times and the streets of New York City, riding a bicycle with a small camera bag strapped to his waist.

But long before his images of street fashion became a regular newspaper feature, Cunningham spent eight years, from 1968 to 1976, working on a whimsical photo essay of models in period costumes posing against historic sites of the same vintage.

Astride his bike, he searched secondhand shops for antique clothing and looked for architectural sites across the city to create the perfect tableaux, many of which featured his muse and fellow photographer, Editta Sherman.

Photographer Bill Cunningham's muse, Editta Sherman, poses in front of the Associated Press Building at Rockefeller Center. NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The result was Facades, a book published in 1978.

Now, nearly all of the 88 gelatin silver prints from the series, which Cunningham donated to the New-York Historical Society, are featured in an exhibition there. Bill Cunningham: Facades runs through June 15.

A former hat maker, Cunningham's models are featured in fantastical headdress. In one composition, Sherman wears a fur pillbox that playfully mimics the spiral lines of Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum. In another, a large hat brimming with oversized feathers and flowers perched high on Sherman's head is used as a perfect counterpoint to the sculpture of Hercules, Minerva and Mercury on the clock atop Grand Central Terminal.

"I don't think he ever thought of it as a fashion project," said the show's curator, Valerie Paley. "It's more a social, architectural and fashion history of the city. ... He saw the grace of old architecture, the lines and the architectural integrity." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Camping in Banff National Park. ISTOCK

Get out under the stars

Learn to Camp. Parks Canada program aims to teach Canadians how to use their own backyard

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Spring is finally here and Parks Canada wants you to start planning a trip to its national parks and historic sites across the country. I chatted with Julie Lefebvre from the Visitor Experience Branch about the Learn to Camp program that's aiming to fill the parks this summer.

What is the Learn to Camp program?
We're organizing weekends to teach people the basics of camping. We're looking to help people who have no experience camping and don't know about our national parks or historic sites.

When they register we provide them with equipment such as a tent and sleeping pads through our partner Mountain Equipment Co-op. The Parks Canada and MEC staff run workshops through the weekend and teach them about how to set up a tent, cook around a camp and review all the equipment to bring. We even sing songs around the campfire. The idea is they get the skills to come on their own next time.

Where and when will these weekends be happening?
June 20 and 21 is the launch date and last Learn to Camp is end of September. There are about 20 places that are going to run the program across the country — mainly in national parks, but there are some historic sites as well.

A few places, like Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto, will do several Learn to Camp weekends throughout the summer but mainly it's once. Several locations will also provide buses from downtown locations to assist in getting everyone to the campsite.

How do people register?
They can call the Parks Canada call centre. You cannot do it online, but the websitepc.gc.ca does contain all the information on dates and locations.

The registration opens on April 18. It is first come, first serve, so call as soon as it opens. Cost varies depending on location.

Is there a new program this summer?
Yes, Equipped Campsite. There are nine or 10 locations across the country including Banff National Park and Cape Breton Island that will be renting camping equipment. This is for people who don't have equipment and loved the Learn to Camp program in summers past. People who now feel confident to go on their own with their families.

Why are these programs so important?
They connect people with nature and give them a great opportunity to have a typical Canadian experience.

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Have you got the job-hop jitters?

Don't fear the retry. Skipping from position to position may not be as professionally sinful as it once seemed in a working culture that demands a variety of experience

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

Maybe you're trying to find your professional niche. Perhaps you get bored easily and like to constantly try your hand at new things.

It could be that you are multitalented, with many passions and diverse interests you're pursuing.

Whatever the reason, if you shift from job to job, trying on different positions and sampling a variety of industries, you may be sabotaging your hire-ability.

That is, unless you have a strategy to navigate your professional mobility through job transitions to leapfrog your career.

Time off, a freelance or volunteer gig, a new collaboration or professional development project — these seemingly sideways or random career shifts could be exactly the professional pivots required to reach your career goals. ISTOCK

Job mobility

In a new study from The University of California at Berkeley, researchers found that freelancers who demonstrated a long-term commitment to one field were most likely to be hired.

After examining millions of candidate profiles on an online job site, Professor Ming D. Leung of the UC Berkeley Hass School of Business found that applicants whose work history demonstrated a number of similar positions were at a distinct advantage over the competition.

On the other hand, Leung discovered that freelancers who remained in one position for a long time, or who took on various but dissimilar positions, were perceived as less attractive to employers on the site.

Put differently, this university study hints that trying on different jobs is preferable and may give you an edge, as long as you stick within a single field.

Planning ahead

Other experts and studies have confirmed that zig-zagging your way through a series of short-term assignments isn't detrimental to your overall career progress if you do it right. Thinking strategically, those short-term positions can actually help you develop transferable skills and demonstrate your professional flexibility and openness to change.

Collecting expertise

Thinking strategically, those short-term positions can actually help you develop transferable skills and demonstrate your professional flexibility and openness to change.

In fact, what may at first seem to be a step backward may actually be the key to fast-track your career progression.

Describing his own experience in Harvard Business Review, Alex McClung observed that, "the sideways moves accelerated my career by five years or more each time," concluding that "sideways always turns into a slingshot." Your career "needs to be horizontal" if you want to get ahead, HBR author Ron Ashkenas insists, because the talent most in demand today has the skills to collaborate — adding "value across" the board for very different stakeholders.

Where you come in

Contract gigs, side hustles, freelancing — all may appear as a series of horizontal moves on a very long resumé. But working hard on this kind of career-in-progress can result an impressive, broad and diverse project portfolio, and produce an extensive network of professional contacts. Those are two big pluses for you — especially if you think of yourself as a bit of a careerpreneur.

Direction of your dash

"Not everyone's path makes sense as a vertical trajectory," observes Robin Madell, and it's possible to "move up" by moving over, or even by stepping right off the ladder every once in awhile.

- If that idea appeals, consider managing your career more like a college professor does, suggests Bruce Kasanoff in Forbes. Academics often step up to serve a limited term in an administrative role before returning to their teaching and research. And every once in awhile it's time for a sabbatical — a chance to pursue a new project, collaborate, learn a new skill, recharge and refocus.

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- Aberdeen Centre
- Richmond Centre
- Richmond Centre II

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- Clover Square Village
- Guildford Town Centre
- Nordel Crossing
- Panorama Village
- Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

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- 1588 West Broadway
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- Park Royal S.

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KAMLOOPS
- Aberdeen Mall
- Lansdowne Village

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Don't get tied in knots for an interview

Hot under the collar. Ditch your necktie in favour of a professional bow tie

ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL
TalentEgg.ca

When you're starting out on a job search, it's important to dress the part — whether you're at a networking event, business lunch or your first entry level job.

Despite the wealth of sartorial advice out there, I've always been a little disappointed at the lack of attention paid to that oft-maligned necktie alternative: the bow tie.

A moment of full disclosure: I couldn't be more biased on this particular front. I've been wearing bow ties for years.

However, this affinity has given me some insight into the practical merits of an admittedly esoteric piece of neckwear.

They're easy to tie (Part 1)

There's a popular misconception that a bow tie is a modern Gordian knot — when in fact tying a conventional necktie is much more complicated.

While most people learn to tie a tie one way and one way only, two Cambridge physicists have determined that the average tie can be knotted at least 85 different ways, 13 of which result in unique aesthetically pleasing knots.

By contrast, there's only one way to tie a bow tie — and the Internet is full of diagrams and videos that can teach you how.

They're easy to tie (Part 2)

Have you ever stood in front of your mirror, tying and retying a necktie, only to get the length wrong every time? Properly tied, a necktie is supposed to cover the entirety of your shirt placket, with the tip just grazing the top of your belt buckle.

It's hard to pull this off the first time, even after years of practice.

This difficulty is greatly reduced with a bow tie. Less fabric to work with means you've got a good chance of getting it right the first time — plus, a bow-tie knot isn't supposed to be perfect (just a little asymmetrical).

They're easy to wear

Noted American designer and architect Charles Eames wore bow ties his entire life, supposedly because they kept out of his way while he worked at the drafting table.

If you regularly wear neckties, you'll know how many disastrous threats the average workplace offers your cravat. It can wind up dunked in your morning coffee, serving as an accidental serviette at lunch, snagged in a drawer… the list goes on.

The bow-tie gracefully avoids these potential pitfalls. Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

Bow ties are tall-person friendly, as you don't need to worry about having the right length of tie to work with. ISTOCK

A-plus accessory

Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

They aren't as flashy as you think

"I couldn't get away with wearing that, everyone would stare at me."

I hear this a lot with respect to bow ties, often from friends who claim they admire my "courage." People are often afraid that they'll become an object of comment, or even ridicule, should they jump on the bowtie bandwagon.

The frank truth is that the average person — in your office, on the street — isn't really all that interested in what you're wearing. Sure, it's a bit of a rarity, but the odd funny look shouldn't be what deters you from trying new things.

After all, you'll never be able to find something that makes everyone happy.

If you work in a conservative industry, it's possible the bow tie might not be right for you. But if you're looking to express a little personal style and flair, it might just be time to jump on the bow-tie bandwagon.

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How to persist without pestering

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VICKI SALEMI
Metro World News

We get it: You're excited about this new prospect ... But bombarding a potential employer with calls is not going to pay off when it's time for them to select a cool, calm candidate. ISTOCK

Whether you're looking for a new job or focused on securing a stellar upgrade to your current role, there's always a dance to manoeuvre — a fine line between being assertive versus over the top. Here are several pointers to help you stand your ground and tactfully move things forward.

When you're interviewing for a job and haven't heard back

You've interviewed, met several people and — bam! Radio silence. Assuming you've already sent thank you notes, email your recruiter and hiring manager one week later. Reiterate how nice it was meeting them and reinforce your interest. It's tricky, because you're straddling persistence and stalker vibes. Daily emails are not recommended. Once a week or every two weeks is fine. Don't appear desperate.

Keep it succinct and, when you hit "Send," say to yourself, "They need me more than I need them." Retain your power.

When they owe you money

Let's say you're a freelance graphic designer. You created a sparkling new website for a client and anticipate getting paid in a reasonable timeframe. If your invoice indicates payment in 30 days and that time has elapsed, it's time to follow up. Keep in mind they're on your side and probably want to continue working with you. There may be a delay in accounting that's out of their hands. Send an email and follow up with a phone call; be persistent every two to three weeks along the lines of, "I know you're busy and I don't want to be a pest, but it's been two months since I completed the site. Is there someone else I should contact to expedite payment?"

When you're applying for a job and haven't heard back

If you've applied for a job online, your resumé is now among hundreds of others in the system, so don't expect to hear back. However, if you have an internal connection and haven't heard back, send an email: "Just wanted to stay top-of-mind. Would you be so kind as to check my candidacy status?" And ask them to connect you to the recruiter. It's not a bad idea to call, so they put a voice to your name.

VICKI SALEMI IS A CAREER AND HUMAN RESOURCES EXPERT AND CONSULTANT WITH 16-PLUS YEARS OF HANDS-ON MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE.

Drop them a line

When it's been a long time since you corresponded

- If you've made a fantastic connection on LinkedIn and haven't kept that relationship alive, it's never too late to rekindle it.
- Reach out through the site and ask if they're available to catch up over a phone call or a cup of coffee. Or ping them via email or Twitter with a relevant article (it doesn't have to be work-related.) It could be a vacation spot they mentioned, with a note: "Thinking of you — enjoy! Hope to catch up soon."

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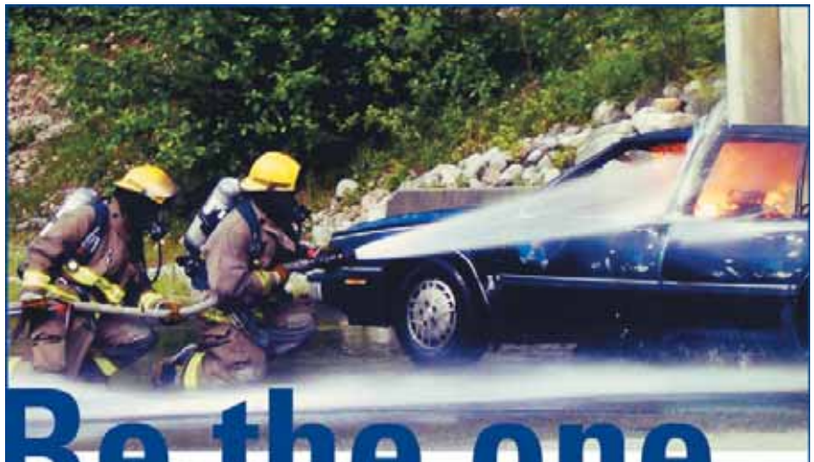

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Match clearly made in meaty heaven

Bacon-Wrapped Meatloaf. The smoky undertones of the bacon make a mouth-watering addition to this classic dish

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Frying up bacon and enjoying it on its own is wonderful. Adding it to soups, salads and sandwiches is also a great way to enjoy its flavour.

I decided to make my son's favourite meal (meatloaf) and one of his favourite meats (bacon), and put them together. When I excitedly told him that I combined his two favourites and that it would be amazing, he just looked at me and asked, "Why didn't you just make regular meatloaf?"

He was pleasantly surprised to taste the dish, with the bacon flavour adding smokiness and a delicious crisp texture to the meatloaf.

Truly, this was to be a perfect match!

A side of creamy mashed potatoes to go alongside each slice of this free-form meatloaf made for a lip-smacking dinner.

This recipe really should serve eight. It served five of us with a few slices for leftovers. Tucked into a soft kaiser bun and warmed through with a sprinkling of cheese, those leftovers made lunch delectable the next day.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 leek, white and light green part only, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp (10 ml) dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) fresh ground black pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) milk
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) ketchup
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- 1 lb (500 g) each ground veal and ground pork
- 10 slices side bacon

This recipe makes eight servings. EMILY RICHARDS

1. In a nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat and cook leek, garlic, thyme and pepper, stirring for about eight minutes or until softened. Scrape into large bowl; let cool slightly.

2. Stir in eggs until combined. Add bread crumbs, cheese, milk, ketchup and Worcestershire; stir until well combined. Add veal and pork and using hands mix well until thoroughly combined.

3. On a parchment paper lined baking sheet shape mixture into a 9 x 5 inch (23 x 13 cm) loaf. Lay bacon slices on a diagonal across the meatloaf, trimming strips as necessary to cover the top and sides completely.

4. Bake in 375 F (190 C) oven for about 1 hour and 10 minutes or until meat thermometer inserted in centre reaches 160 F (70 C).

5. Let stand for 5 minutes before slicing into about 1-inch (2.5 cm) slices.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

EARLY LEARNING UNDERGOING CHANGE

OLIVEROMG/SHUTTERSTOCK

The early childhood education sector is seeing a lot of changes — clients are desperate for more affordable care with more flexible hours or part-time spots, while families are clamouring for more licensed spaces. The Early Childhood Educators of B.C. (ECEBC) estimate that only one in five children have access to quality, licensed child care.

So while not all of these trends trickle down to the curriculum offered in the early childhood education (ECE) programs available throughout B.C., the industry is shifting in how it's educating its future graduates.

INCREASING THE FIELD'S DIVERSITY

For some time now, early childhood education has been the domain of female workers.

"And while it's still predominantly a female sector, I've seen more and more men coming into the sector," says Emily Mlieczko, executive director of the Vancouver-based ECEBC.

"We've noted an increase in cultural capacity, so working respectfully and inclusively with people from a wide variety of cultures," adds Lorna McCrae, the early childhood education program co-chair for Vancouver Island University.

CONNECTING MORE WITH EDUCATION

While daycare centres might have once been considered a place where a child was looked after while mom and dad went to work, they aren't any longer.

"There's not really a separation between the two, early learning and early care," says Violet Jessen, convener and instructor with the ECCE program at Capilano University's school of education and childhood studies. "We know that children's learning doesn't start at age five when they enter kindergarten, it starts at birth. It's connected. Early learning and care is really more of a holistic approach, so some philosophies of the program look at this holistic approach or the curriculum as inquiry-based learning."

STUDENT DEMAND IS EVOLVING

Students entering ECE programs are also looking for change.

"Students are looking for easier transferability between training institutions and portability of their credentials/licences to other parts of Canada and abroad," Jessen says. "They appreciate the international/cross-cultural experiences and a variety of community networking opportunities within their educational experience."

At Vancouver Island University, McCrae says the school is graduating students who are critical thinkers and can take their ECE background beyond the daycare rooms.

"So these students might go into policy work and other fields that directly or indirectly influence childhood education."

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FOLLOWING A CHILD'S LEAD WITH MTI

MTI Community College early childhood care and education students learn the benefits of guiding preschool children to follow their own interests.

"In some schools, the teacher schedules what they learn, but with the Reggio Emilia approach, the teacher follows the child's lead and guides their interests," says Komela Kiafar, Vancouver campus director.

The Reggio Emilia child-centred approach, taught at MTI Community College, began in Italy in the 1940s.

"We want children to have interactions, to show them things, to take them outdoors," Kiafar says. "With a good early childhood care educator, children learn about themselves and the world and discover ways to solve problems."

Since 2000, MTI Community College has offered early childhood dare and education certificate and diploma programs to students in small classes of 10 to 14, across six B.C. campuses. Students study to become licensed early childhood education teachers in full-time, part-time and evening courses.

Students can pursue a 48-week certification and a two-year diploma with a specialization in infant and toddler programming or special needs children. The programs combine classroom instruction and practicum placements.

MTI early childhood care and education graduates can qualify to work in preschools and family daycare centres and open their own child care businesses.

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"The early childhood education program at CDI College provides students with the hands-on training they need to become effective early childhood educators," says Larry Heinzlmeir, vice-president, marketing at CDI College in Richmond.

"What sets it apart is that students learn from industry-experienced instructors in small classes that allow for more interaction with their instructors and fellow students."

The program is 43 weeks long so students are ready for the workplace in less than a year, with a wide variety of courses designed to prepare the student for what lies ahead when they make this important career choice.

"Early childhood educators are trained to plan and implement programs that contribute to the intellectual, social, physical and emotional development of the children they work with, using various activities such as play, arts and crafts, drama, science, math and more."

Three practicum placements are integral to the program and give students the opportunity for hands-on experience working with children under experienced early childhood educators.

"Students are able to see how the techniques, theories and practices they learned in the classroom are applied in a childcare setting."

Do you have what it takes to work as an early childhood educator? Besides having a genuine interest in working with kids, you need to be patient, caring, creative and fun.

"The hands-on training from industry experienced instructors, small class sizes and practicum placements make the early childhood education program the ideal choice for anyone looking to train for a career in childcare in less than a year," Heinzlmeir says.

Applications for the early childhood education program are being accepted at the Richmond campus.

CDI COLLEGE FACTS

- CDI College has been helping students achieve career goals and aspirations for more than 40 years.
- CDI College has 26 campus locations across Canada, including five in B.C.
- The college offers more than 50 industry-influenced diploma programs in business, technology, health care, early childhood education, legal studies and art and design.

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TWO NEW PROGRAMS CAN OPEN ADDITIONAL DOORS

VCC MEETS NEEDS OF CHILDCARE SECTOR

Even if you are busy during the day looking after your kids or holding down a job, you can still pursue your dream career as an early childhood educator part time during the evening in the heart of the city at Vancouver Community College.

And starting this fall, the college's early childcare and education program will undergo a complete revitalization to better meet the needs of the childcare sector now and in the future.

"We've assessed our program and revamped it so it meets the standards of the industry and the B.C. Registry for Early Childhood Education, as well as meeting the needs of our students, today and over the coming years," says Janice Bexson, program co-ordinator of Vancouver Community College's early childcare and education program.

At the heart of this rejuvenation is the launch of two new comprehensive specialty diploma programs — one aimed at working with infants and toddlers, and the other for the special needs population. These "post-basic" programs will be optional add-ons to the basic two-year early childcare and education certificate.

Each of these two diplomas can be earned in one year, or take them both in less than 18 months. Like the basic certificate program, these two new diploma programs include practicum blocks in childcare facilities.

"Most important to our ECCE students, these diploma programs will help open additional doors to work in a wider variety of childcare settings," Bexson says.

What else sets VCC's ECCE program apart? "Our intake is limited to 30 new students yearly, so we can nurture our students and offer individual support and attention," Bexson says.

The nurturing comes from the program's remarkable group of ECCE instructors.

"I'm amazed by the dedication of our ECCE team of instructors," says Tene Barber, dean of continuing studies and contract training. "This is a very engaged and devoted instructional team."

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EXPLORE MANY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students with a passion for children, child development and a diploma from the Langara College early childhood education program could find work within months after graduation.

"There's a high demand for them," says early childhood education program chair Kathy Stoessl of her program's graduates. Langara College "has an excellent program with a good reputation in the city."

A former early childhood education teacher herself, Stoessl says Langara College graduates are quick to find work in childcare centres, preschools, kindergartens, family places, neighbourhood houses, and community centres.

Some early childhood education graduates find careers with a social work focus in child and youth care. Others combine their knowledge of child development with the creative arts to become storytellers and musicians. With continued education, there are other opportunities, including careers as licensing officers, consultants or college instructors.

After attending school full time for three semesters (12 months) and combining classroom instruction and varied practicum experiences, students graduate with a diploma in early childhood education. They can then pursue an early childhood education: Special education post-basic citation on a part-time basis, two evenings a week. Students learn to plan quality programs and work effectively with children with diverse needs. The program offers intakes in September or January.

CONTRIBUTED

Both men and women of all ages are enrolled in Langara's program. Some are recent high school graduates. Others are parents training for a second career. They come from diverse backgrounds, including banking, forestry and civil engineering.

"Sometimes people don't realize that this is a passion in their lives, but they look back and see a common thread," Stoessl says. "Many people in service jobs aren't connecting to people. Early childhood education is a giving profession. These students really value relationships with other people."

For more, visit langara.bc.ca.

LEARN WHAT FEEDS A CHILD'S CURIOSITY

Let a group of preschoolers loose in a room with colorful building blocks and what happens next could be viewed as mere child's play.

But for an early childhood education student at Vancouver's Langara College, children at play provide an opportunity to observe and learn.

"Play is how children construct their understanding of the world," says Kathy Stoessl, department chair of the early childhood education program at Langara College.

Through observation, early childhood educators get an idea about how children think and what feeds their curiosity.

What can early childhood educators learn from children playing with a set of blocks?

"It's an opportunity to watch them problem-solving, negotiating, communicating with each other and taking turns and using lifelong social skills," Stoessl says. "It's an opportunity to teach them about size and shape, weight and balance."

CONTRIBUTED

Langara's early childhood education students can observe children at practicum sites in Richmond and Vancouver spreading their thumb and index finger across the top of a block. This is the same way they might enlarge an image on an iPad or smartphone.

Just as children and their view of the world has expanded and changed over the years, so has the Langara College early childhood education program.

Once upon a time, readiness for school meant a preschooler would be able to tie their shoes or recognize colours and the letters of the alphabet. Today's children need to be open to cultural diversity and new ideas.

"When we look at preparing children, what is readiness for school these days?," Stoessl asks. "Learning through their lives, curiosity, being persistent and the effort you need to put into something."

Langara's early childhood education graduates prepare their young charges to be ready, not only for grade school, but also for their futures.

GUIDE BEHAVIOUR

Since 1966, Langara College has been graduating students from its respected early childhood education program. In small classes of 32, students at the Vancouver campus learn to balance theory in the classroom with practical experiences in licensed childcare centres.

"Students visit a different practicum site each week," says chair Kathy Stoessl, who used to teach in the program. "They are together as a cohort in two groups at a time. Our faculty have a personal relationship with students. We support them so they can grow as educators."

The Langara College early childhood education program focuses on an anti-bias approach where students learn to guide the individual child's behaviour during the crucial early years from birth to five years. Sometimes students find work placements at their practicum. Upon graduation, students are quick to find work as quality early childhood educators who are in high demand in B.C.

More than child's play.

LANGARA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Play is the work of children. It is how they develop the social, creative, cognitive, and physical skills for their future success. Early childhood educators provide the care and play opportunities that stimulate this critical learning.

For 48 years, Langara College's Early Childhood Education Department has provided innovative and applied ECE programs. Each year our programs graduates over 64 students who make play their life's work, teaching young children in our communities.

Learn more.
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Imagine the thrill of twirling freely and expressing self-confidence through dance, the joy of sharing stories from around the world and acting them out with friends. Or the wonder of exploring the colours of nature with bright pastels and watercolours.

Exposure to the arts has always been an important part of early childhood education and development. Creative experiences enhance a child's emotional, intellectual and social development and provide them with an opportunity to express their emotions, and experiences. Within an arts education are some of the important building blocks of child development. These building blocks help promote academic skills, boost personal growth, well-being and self-confidence.

KYOKO FIERRO PHOTO

Early learning classes at Arts Umbrella offer an inspired introduction to art through play that emphasizes exploration, creativity and fun. Young learners are provided with their first experiences with the arts at a key point in their development. Parent and me classes offer a supportive and playful way to transition young children into the learning environment. Children are encouraged to tap into their imaginations and experiment with their creativity with the help of their parents.

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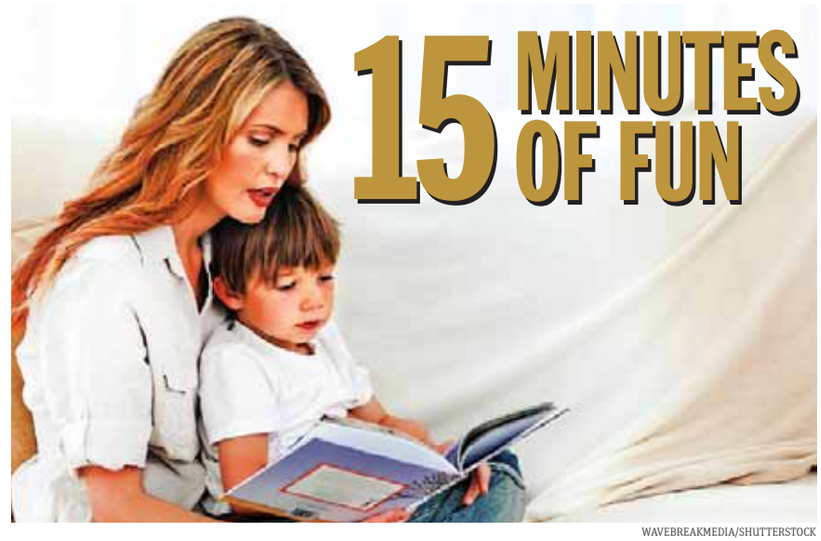

WAVEBREAKMEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Even after kids have started school, parents can encourage their curiosity and confidence by making learning a daily part of home life. Spending at least 15 minutes a day engaged in learning activities develops literacy, numeracy, and other skills essential for success in school.

ABC Life Literacy Canada offers the following suggestions on its 15 Minutes of Fun theme, activities that parents and children can do together.

Choose Your Own ABC is a game that develops thinking skills, and is great for car trips, waiting rooms and rainy days. Choose a subject (for example, grandmother) and for each letter of the alphabet, take turns thinking of something that begins with that letter. For grandmother, things beginning with "C" could include caring, cookies and condo. No need to keep score — just move on to the next letter when you can't think of anything else. Subjects can be sports, food, seasons, animals, or anything else.

I Spy, the classic childhood game of observation (I spy with my little eye something that is green), can be adapted for language patterns (…something that rhymes with cat), spelling (…something that starts with "C"), shape recognition (…something that is a circle) and many other variations.

Board games like checkers, card games like crazy eights, and word games like Boggle develop skills like numeracy, problem solving and reading. Young children often do better than adults at visual perception, so games like Memory (matching pairs of illustrated cards) and Set (identifying similarities and differences of patterned cards) are worth seeking out in toy stores.

Counting Walk develops numeracy and observation skills. Take a walk and count specific types of items on porches, lawns, windows and store displays. For example, you can count pumpkins during Halloween and lawn chairs during summer. During an election period, count the signs for different candidates and predict who might win the election based on how many you count. Have your child create a simple chart and fill it in as you go.

Reading aloud can continue to be an enjoyable family learning activity long after kids are able to read by themselves. Keep reading stories at bedtime and at other times. Encourage kids to read aloud, too — take turns reading pages from favourite books. Reading aloud is one of the joys of parenthood — make it last as long as possible. *– News Canada*

The Living Language Early Childhood Training Program meets the required standards for training early learning professionals within the province of British Columbia. LLIF helps prepare students to deliver high quality early learning programs.

The LLIF Early Childhood Training Program is a not for profit charity.

Maximum number of students taken each year is 10. Students are mentored throughout the 12 month training period. Student intake for the program is October of each year.

Living Language Institute Foundation
Please contact:
https://sites.google.com/site/livinglanguageece/home
or call **604-263-4711**

CONTRIBUTED

PROGRAM PREPS YOU FOR SPECIALIZATION

Now it's possible to build on your early childhood education credentials and get specialized training for specific populations.

The Vancouver Career College post-basic program allows students who have graduated from an early childhood education program the opportunity to expand their education into two new areas of specialization to work with infants and toddlers and children living with special needs.

"Students can choose one area of specialization or both," says Bohdan Bilan, vice-president, academics and regulatory affairs at Vancouver Career College. "The specializations cover the foundations of working with infants, toddlers and children with special needs. Students also learn about planning programs for each of these areas of childcare. They also have a practicum placement in each area of specialization."

The program is available on a full-time (33 weeks) or part-time (41 weeks) basis, allowing students to pursue their education while continuing to work in the field. Students who choose only one specialization can complete the program in 19 weeks.

"Graduates from the early childhood education post-basic program are well-prepared for positions as daycare supervisors, childcare workers, preschool supervisors and early childhood program directors," Bilan says. "They learn about working with the children as well as their families, the schools and the community."

Each early childhood education post-basic specialization has a 210-hour practicum placement.

"Practicum experience allows students to work under the supervision of certified supervisors in order to implement their training and gain relevant experience in the area of childcare."

For information on the early childhood education programs and the Vancouver Career College campuses that offer them, visit vccollege.ca.

EXCELLENT REPUTATION

The early childhood education programs at Vancouver Career College have an excellent reputation for training capable, caring early childhood educators. Along with the post-basic program, the college offers a basic early childhood education program along with a Montessori teaching certificate program.

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Opportunity knocks for Shawn Matthias

NHL. Utility centre could play on top line with Henrik Sedin out because of injury

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The plot continues. Just another injury for the Vancouver Canucks to deal with.

Head coach John Tortorella told reporters on Tuesday that captain Henrik Sedin, who injured his left leg in Sunday's win over Buffalo, is considered "day-to-day," and would not travel with the team on its two-game road trip, which includes stops in St. Paul, Minn., against the Wild on Wednesday and in Denver against the Colorado Avalanche on Thursday.

For Shawn Matthias, the injury to Henrik likely means that the 26-year-old utility centre will be bumped up to the top line to start Wednesday's game.

Matthias skated on a line between Daniel Sedin and rookie Nicklas Jensen during Tuesday's practice, before the team hopped on a flight for Minnesota.

"It's important that if I step into a role, I play it as well as possible. I don't want to hurt the team," said Matthias, acquired from the Florida Panthers in exchange for goalie Roberto Luongo.

This trip, brief as it is, presents a difficult two-game set, as the Canucks cling to the last little bit of hope of qualifying for the playoffs.

Canucks centre Shawn Matthias celebrates after scoring a goal against the Sabres on Sunday night at Rogers Arena. Matthias is expected to centre the team's top line in the absence of Henrik Sedin. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It's important that if I step into a role, I play it as well as possible. I don't want to hurt the team."

Shawn Matthias on playing alongside Daniel Sedin and Nicklas Jensen on the Canucks' top line.

Both upcoming opponents are in playoff positions, with Minnesota holding the first wild-card spot, and Colorado comfortably fifth in the conference.

With nine games remaining in their regular season, and sitting 10th in the Western Conference, six points behind the eighth-place Phoenix Coyotes, it appears the Canucks are too far down and there isn't enough time remaining to miraculously salvage this tumultuous season.

Injuries have certainly played their part.

Henrik Sedin's injury came on the same night his twin brother Daniel and Ryan Kesler returned to the lineup from injury.

Alex Burrows also missed the last game with a thumb injury.

Originally, Tortorella told reporters after Tuesday's skate that Burrows would not be on the trip to Minnesota. However, there were reports afterward stating Burrows, the veteran winger, was indeed travelling with the team.

"Can't be deflating. We've been going through this all year long," said Tortorella.

WHL playoffs

Winterhawks too strong for Giants in Game 3

The Portland Winterhawks appear unstoppable at this point, and the Vancouver Giants are facing elimination from the Western Hockey League playoffs.

Game 3 between the two teams at the Pacific Coliseum was a case of a deeply skilled team capitalizing on its chances and another team, learning the ropes of playoff hockey with eyes toward the future, unable to do so until it was too late.

The Winterhawks now lead the series 3-0 following a 6-3 victory over the Giants on Tuesday. A loss in Game 4 on Wednesday in Vancouver and the Giants' rebound 2013-14 season comes to an end.

Portland's power play was lethal in the first period, taking advantage of undisciplined Vancouver penalties by scoring twice on two opportunities.

Winterhawks defenceman Derrick Pouliot opened the scoring on a slapshot from the point that beat a screened Payton Lee. Brendan Leipsic buried a sweet feed from Nicolas Petan to give Portland a two-goal lead.

For the Giants, it was arguably their best period of the series. They outshot the Winterhawks but couldn't beat goalie Brendan Burke.

Mistakes continued for the Giants in the second period. Taylor Leier scored to give the Winterhawks a 3-0 lead and Leipsic gave the visitors a four-goal lead less than six minutes later.

Alec Baer, Joel Hamilton and Trent Lofthouse scored for Vancouver.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

NHL. Panthers take care of Senators in shootout

Vincent Trocheck and Brandon Pirri scored in a shootout to lift the Florida Panthers past the Ottawa Senators 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Trocheck also scored in regulation and Sean Bergenheim scored a goal for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo made 37 saves.

Clarke MacArthur and Mark Stone scored for the Senators and Robin Lehner stopped 39 shots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roberto Luongo made 37 saves in the Panthers' shootout win on Tuesday. JOEL AUERBACH/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Nowitzki comes up clutch in OT

Dirk Nowitzki scored seven of his 32 points in overtime, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 128-119 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

Nowitzki also had 10 rebounds and six assists. In Dallas's loss to Brooklyn on Sunday, he was 2-for-12 from the field in his worst shooting performance of the season.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 43 points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golf. Weir not wearied by seven-year title drought

It has been almost seven years since Canadian Mike Weir last won on the PGA Tour.

He has battled injuries over the last few seasons and is trying to regain the form that saw him excel a decade ago. Weir has made the cut at only three events this year but feels his game is close to returning to form.

It's his short game that has cost him of late. Weir has been working hard to correct things as he prepares for the two tournaments ahead of the Masters next month. Weir, 43, pulled out of an event in late January due to a neck injury. He has been training hard in recent weeks and feels strong and ready. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Timing is everything

"You've got to put it all together at the right time — I'm just not doing that." **Canadian golfer Mike Weir** reacting to his struggles on the PGA Tour.

While other Canucks have faltered, defenceman Dan Hamhuis has enjoyed a solid season. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Hamhuis is Canucks' diamond in the rough

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ronnie Shuker
vancouver@metronews.ca

In a season that has been almost all doom and more doom, Dan Hamhuis has been a steadying force on an otherwise sinking ship. And he's my vote for Vancouver's MVP of 2013-14.

Hamhuis has been the only Canuck to play to his potential and the only star on the team that has actually shone. He's also a bargain at a $4.5-million cap hit for the next two seasons.

Virtually every other Canuck has underachieved. The Sedins are on pace for their lowest points-per-game averages in a decade. Alexandre Burrows won't hit double digits in goals for the first time since his sophomore season in 2006-07. Alexander Edler has the lowest plus-minus rating (minus-29) among all NHL defencemen. David Booth is making $4.5 million while scoring fewer than 10 goals. Jason Garrison is making $6.5 million for all of seven goals and 32 points. And John Tortorella is having his worst season as an NHL coach since he was let go by the Tampa Bay Lightning after the 2007-08 season.

Hamhuis, however, has been one of the best defencemen in the league and was recognized for it with his selection to Team Canada for the Winter Olympics. His offensive stats aren't sexy — just five goals and 18 shots —but he's a stud on the blueline who rarely makes a defensive error. He's averaging 24:11 of ice time per game — tops on the team and the most in any of his 10 seasons in the NHL — and he logs big minutes on both the power play and penalty kill.

Hamhuis won't win the Norris Trophy with the likes of Erik Karlsson, Zdeno Chara, Shea Weber, Ryan Suter, Duncan Keith and Drew Doughty leading the way. But if there were an award for defensive defenceman of the year, he would be a legitimate candidate to win it.

With Hamhuis in the fold, the Canucks can at least go into next season confident they have one of the league's best shutdown defencemen to anchor what should be a substantially reworked blue-line. Edler is all but guaranteed to be traded this summer, and Kevin Bieksa is likely to go as well. Jason Garrison may follow if the Canucks can find a team willing to take on his contract, which has four more years on it. If Vancouver can somehow snag an elite puck-moving defenceman in the summer, Hamhuis would be the perfect fit alongside him.

In a disappointing season for Vancouver, Hamhuis gives the Canucks a stable cornerstone piece on "D" to help rebuild this floundering franchise.

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Get ready to go in the tough Tahoe

PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2015 Chevrolet Tahoe

- **Type.** Four-door, rear- /four-wheel-drive full-size sport utility vehicle
- **Engines (hp).** 5.3-litre OHV V8 (355)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $50,800

Fuel economy

Despite a 45-kilogram drop in weight and improved aerodynamics, the Tahoe rates 14.9 l/100 km in the city and 10.1 on the highway, compared to a slightly better 14.3/9.4 rating for the 2014 model's 5.3 V8.

Design

The shape is sleeker, there's less weight and more available safety content on tap. However the powertrain is a bit harder on gas. The trimmer sheet metal and stylish grille create the impression that the Tahoe is a bit smaller than before, but the tape measure proves that not much has really changed.

Review. It might be an SUV but it makes no apologies about being hardy and capable

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Honestly, when was the last time you heard the term "sport utility vehicle" bandied about? It likely has been a while, since not many are being made anymore. Still, there are a few hanging on, including the full-size Tahoe and its super-size Suburban relation.

Hanging on? Actually, these rigs, with their ball-team seating capacities, are thriving where others have faded from sight or have been converted to gentler, more fuel-frugal car-based wagons. North American Tahoe/Suburban sales climbed more than 15 per cent for the 2013 model year and, according to General Motors, represented nearly half of all full-size sport utility vehicles sold. Add in healthy sales of the similar GMC Yukon and there's little left for the few remaining competitors. The 2015 Tahoe, arriving this spring, has undergone a complete transformation. What is clear is the separation between the Tahoe and the considerably bolder looking 2015 Yukon counterpart.

It's a different story on the inside where max stowage volume has actually decreased slightly, possibly because the third-row seats now fold flat for added capacity and are no longer removable. Other changes include a more fashionable dashboard and control panel, complete with a five- or available eight-inch touchscreens that control the infotainment and communications systems. A smaller secondary screen is located between the watch-style dash gauges that displays key info where the driver can easily view it.

The filing-cabinet-sized centre console can swallow a laptop computer and other bulky items. There are also storage areas beneath the door armrests plus a secure spot behind the touchscreen for holding cell phones and other small valuables. The Tahoe's body is attached to a stronger ladder frame that widens the distance between the wheels slightly for greater stability.

Mounted between the rails is a 5.3-litre V8 that produces 355 horsepower and healthy 383 pound-feet of torque. Although displacement is the same as the previous base V8, the new 5.3 is all-aluminum and employs direct-injection (fuel force-fed into the cylinders under high pressure) and continuously variable valve timing (alters valve lift/duration to improve performance and economy).

The engine can also run on four cylinders under steady-state cruising, which also saves gas. The transmission is a six-speed automatic with steering-wheel "TapShift" controls and a Tow/Haul mode that holds the gear changes longer when trailering heavy loads (up to 3,640 kilograms). There's also auto Grade Braking, which downshifts the transmission to help slow the Tahoe when descending a hill. This helps maintain vehicle control while ensuring the brakes don't overheat.

As per the 2014 version, the 2015 Tahoe is offered in LS, LT and LTZ flavours. Base models come with plenty of standard gear, with the mid- and top-grade trims piling on content such as keyless push-button entry, power-folding rear seat and start, magnetic ride control that constantly adjusts the dampers for a smoother ride.

Eighteen-inch wheels are standard with 20- and 22-inchers available at extra cost. On the safety front, along with the latest in crash-avoiding technologies, there's an available front-seat centre air bag.

It deploys (from the right side of the driver's seat) to prevent passengers from colliding with each other during a side impact. This key piece of technology addresses a weakness in current shoulder belt design that allows passengers to move sideways. Look for broader use of this in more vehicles. With a $50,800 starting price ($3,300 extra for four-wheel-drive), including destination charges, the new Tahoe continues a tradition of capability and power. Even in this day and age, it makes no apologies for that, nor should it.

Compare

1 Ford Expedition
Base price: $43,500

2 Toyota Sequoia
Base price: $44,600

3 GMC Yukon
Base price: $46,000

Great Scotti! That's one hell of a car collection

Enforced auction. Dealership owner and avid collector John must sell portion of his giant number of vehicles as he is moving house

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The star of the show could be the Chrysler Airflow, which should fetch $150-200k.

A large portion of John Scotti's insanely large car collection. IMAGES: AUCTIONS AMERICA

In true collector spirit, John Scotti kept acquiring muscle cars and late model exotics, and didn't worry too much about the accumulation.

But now he's forced to — The Montreal-based collector, who also operates several new-car dealerships, has to relocate his Lamborghini and Lotus operations, which also houses a good chunk of his collection, and the new digs just can't take all the 'Vettes, Mustangs, Cudas, and Torinos.

So he's sending 400 to 450 of them to auction.

The "John Scotti Collection" will headline Auctions America's spring sale in Auburn, Ind., on May 8-10, and stands to be the largest single Canadian car collection ever sold at auction.

Some might suggest the word "collection" could be replaced with "inventory," as most of the vehicles appeared to be for sale by John Scotti Classic Cars. But Howard Cohen, who manages John Scotti Classic Cars, told us there were cars in the warehouse no one ever saw. "Some have been sitting in there for 12 years." Cohen also adds that his boss is a lifelong car enthusiast who acquired the vehicles over a period a time, and that the collection very much reflects his personal tastes.

Scotti must be drawn to low-mileage original muscle cars, because there are an impressive number of those in the collection. Two such examples include the 1967 Corvette Convertible with 5,500 miles, and the 1987 Buick GNX showing just 90 original miles.

The car expected to fetch the highest value under the hammer is the show-ready 1934 Chrysler Airflow, with a sales estimate of $150,000 to $200,000.

All the collection cars will be sold with "no reserve" (sometimes sellers stipulate a reserve or minimum selling amount that must be met before the vehicle can change hands).

While "no reserve" seems to introduce an element of risk, Gord Duff of Auctions America says history has shown that "no reserve" always creates more interest and attendance and buzz, and that always translates to better overall sales results.

He also noted that the John Scotti cars are on a one-way ticket to Indiana. "Both parties (Auctions America and John Scotti) have put in lots of work to get these cars here. They're not going back to Montreal."

From Scotti's end, the work entails starting hundreds of veteran cars that haven't stirred for a while, and that means lots battery replacements and carb cleaning, and the occasional un-sticking of seized brakes. About 200 cars are already in Indiana. Another 200-plus to go. "Everything has to be out of here by April 30th, that's the cut-off," says Cohen.

While in an ideal world, Cohen would have preferred to sell the cars the usual "retail" way, he completely agrees with his boss's decision to make this mass sell-off. "We just had too many cars … To be honest with you, my boss likes buying more than he does selling."

And he's at it again. "John just made another purchase — 946 cars from a 92-year old collector." For more information on the John Scotti auction check out auctionsamerica.com. You can also watch a lot of the auction live on the NBC Sports Network.

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2010 Suzuki SX4 JX
Stock# BB3439A
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SALE PRICE $12,995* $58**/WK

2008 Honda CR-V
Stock# K14235A
awd, auto, power group, a/c, steering controls
SALE PRICE $17,995* $83**/WK

2011 Suzuki Grand Vitara JLX
Stock# AB10540
sunroof, 18" alloys, auto, power group, climate control, steering controls, ESP, satellite radio ready,
SALE PRICE $17,995* $83**/WK

2009 Toyota Prius
Stock# S14036A
hybrid, only 42,000 kms, 16" alloys, power group, steering controls, auto
SALE PRICE $17,995* $83**/WK

2011 Subaru Imprezza
Stock# BB3479
4 door, hatchback, local vehicle, A/C, power group, auto, air, 16" alloys
SALE PRICE $17,995* $83**/WK

2013 Land Rover Evoque Prestige
Stock# KK1490
19" alloys, leather, panoramic moonroof, only 10,000 km's climate control, navigation, premium sound
SALE PRICE $54,995* $293.01**/WK

2007 Toyota Yaris
Stock# SI3657A
4 door sedan, manual, power locks, cd player, 60/40 rear seats
SALE PRICE $8,995* $55.10**/WK

2011 VW Jetta Sportsline
Stock# BB3527
sunroof, 17" alloys, power group, a/c, manual, cruise, heated seats, usb input, only 36,000km's
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It may at times seem as if you are moving backwards but that means you need to adjust your way of thinking. What you have to understand is that every experience moves you forward, eventually.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Social activities will go well today, so make an effort to get out and meet new people. The more things you do with others, the more you will enjoy yourself and the more of an effect your actions will have.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You can be a bit too blunt and with Mercury, your ruler, linked to Jupiter, planet of excess, today you may say too much. So what? At least you have something worth saying.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You need to realize there is more going on than you were previously aware of. You need to accept that in spite of all the bad things that go on in the world, it's a wonderful place.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Either you will come into money today or you will come up with a plan that makes you money in thefuture. If it's the latter, be patient. True wealth is worth waiting for.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Joint plans are less likely to go wrong today if you keep any doubts you have to yourself. Yes, it's quite likely you can see a better way of doing things but, having agreed to take part in a venture, you must be positive about it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Self-confidence is the key to success, so believe in what you are doing. Remember too that the world you experience is largely a reflection of what goes on inside your head.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You must carry on with a creative endeavor that you may have been thinking of giving up on. You don't seem to realize how close you are to a breakthrough.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today's Mercury-Jupiter aspect will help you find the words to connect with those you are closest to. You don't have to get emotional but you do have to remind them that your love is unconditional.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's unlike you to be easygoing about people you don't much like and opinions you think are stupid but you seem to have reached a point where, frankly, you no longer care. Getting uptight is not worth the hassle.

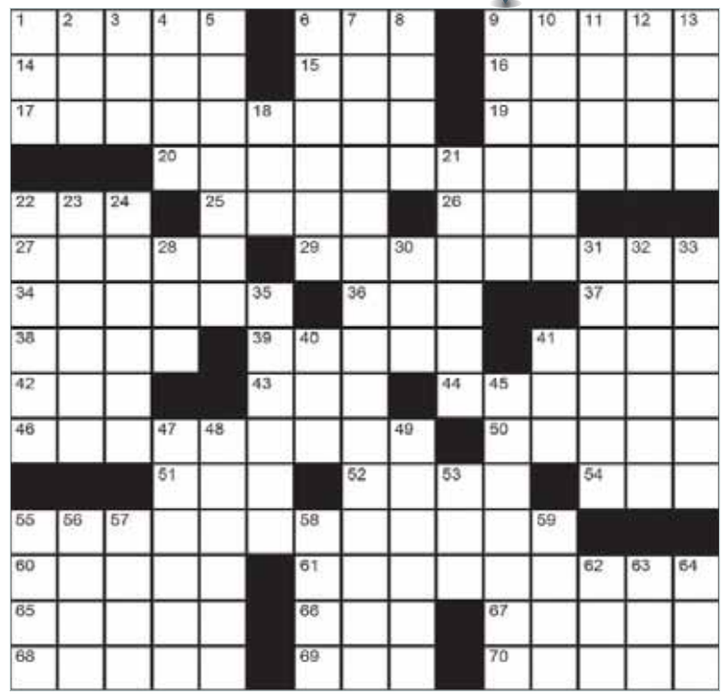
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Mercury in the money area of your chart suggests that Lady Luck will be smiling on you over the next few days. If you do find you have extra cash in your pocket, why not treat someone you love to an afternoon or evening out?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It's an ideal day to make promises. Mercury, planet of the mind, is on your side so decide what you desire and commit to making it yours. The universe will hear and respond favourably. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Nest noise
6. First aid team, e.g.
9. Quick times
14. __ _ grudge
15. Maintain the lawn
16. "Garfield: _ __ of Two Kitties" (2006)
17. Kim Mitchell hit: 3 wds.
19. Peppy gathering
20. Saskatchewan city just north of Saskatoon
22. Singer's prop
25. Jessica's surname
26. Scot's 'own'
27. Web memo, _-__
29. Vintage comedy
34. New York's capital
36. Shiba __ (Dog breed of Japan)
37. "__ Mir Bist Du Schon" by The Andrews Sisters
38. Randy Jackson's word
39. French painter Edouard
41. Musician Mr. Saunders
42. 'Capri' suffix
43. Smoker's prop
44. Has moved on: 2 wds.
46. Bing-using reason: 2 wds.
50. Still _ __ (Maya Angelou poem)
51. Prefix to 'form'
52. "__ Flux" (2005)
54. Prefix to 'ate' (Ventilate)
55. Driver's must have: 2 wds.
60. Just one French fry
61. Justin's super fans
65. Hot chocolate
66. Wide shoe width
67. "No!"
68. Sharp weapon
69. Learning basics, informally
70. __-Canada Highway

Down
1. Visa transaction, briefly
2. "Yoo-__!"
3. Gremlin
4. Ancient Dead Sea land
5. __ Free (Beauty product's label info, maybe)
6. Hams it up
7. Linda Evangelista's really took off in 1990: 2 wds.
8. Graceful bird
9. Canadian singer/producer Mr. Church
10. Turtles tune: "__ __ Me Babe"
11. Tumble
12. Stuff
13. Leonard __, Roy Rogers' birth name (b.1911 - d.1998)
18. __ Lanka
21. Largest dairy processor in Canada
22. __ Lake (Saskatchewan city, the 'Gateway to Pure Air & Water')
23. Getting home tardily: 2 wds.
24. Arachnid's architecture
28. Wrestling: __ team
30. 'Meth' suffix
31. Spanish airline
32. Cherry: French
33. Out of __ (Unbalanced)
35. Q. "'_._._._' __ a song by what group?" A. "Village People."
40. Broadcast
41. Mal de __ (Seasickness)
45. Don McLean song about a Dutch painter
47. Courtship guy
48. Group of nine
49. Faith __
53. 'Pepper' add-on (Deli item)
55. Ozone pollutants, for short
56. In _ __ (Sequentially)
57. Puerto's partner
58. Slangy 'super'
59. Celebrity hairstylist Jose
62. Actress Ms. Green
63. Stimpy's pal
64. Non-Jr.s

Yesterday's Crossword

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

			2	3			7	9
5	9			7	1			8
	7				6		1	
	6	1				3	4	
	4		7				5	
6			1	9			3	5
2	5			4	7			

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	9	3	7	2	4	5	8
4	2	5	1	9	8	3	6	7
3	8	7	4	6	5	2	1	9
8	3	1	7	2	6	5	9	4
5	7	4	9	8	3	1	2	6
2	9	6	5	1	4	8	7	3
7	4	2	6	3	1	9	8	5
9	5	8	2	4	7	6	3	1
6	1	3	8	5	9	7	4	2

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Check the 14 day trend.
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